

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2424

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAU, LI, XA

SUBJ: LIBERIAN COMMENTS ON OAU MEETINGS

BEGIN SUMMARY: ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER EASTMAN REPORTED ON OAU CONFERENCE, NOTED GOL CONCERN AT POSSIBLE ARAB DOMINATION, EXPRESSED REGRET OVER AFRICAN RECORD IN SAHEL, NOTED EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION MADE BY GRUNK AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, BY PRG, AND CLAIMED CONFERENCE WAS, WHEN ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS NATHANIAL EASTMAN, WHO WAS MEMBER GOL DELEGATION IN MOGADISCIO, COMMITTED TO EMBOFF ON EVENTS DURING OAU MINISTERIAL AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES.

1. SELECTION OF SECRETARY GENERAL. EASTMAN HAD NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW THIS SUBJECT, EXCEPT TO POINT OUT HIS DELEGATION AND OTHERS, WHILE FULLY AWARE CAPABILITIES ARTEH AND REALIZING CONTRIBUTIONS HE COULD MAKE TO OAU, WERE CONCERNED AT POSSIBLE SOMALI OVERLOADING OF OAU MACHINERY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN MEDIATION COMMITTEE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI PROBLEMS. EASTMAN OBSERVED NO MAN CAN BE

100 PERCENT NEUTRAL. IN THIS RESPECT EASTMAN SAID MANY DELEGATIONS WERE IRRITATED AT APPEARANCE IN CONFERENCE OF ANTI-ETHIOPIAN BOOK OBVIOUSLY SPONSORED BY SOMALI GOVERNMENT. EASTMAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ETEKI AND BELIEVES HE WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAN PREDECESSOR.

2. ARAB INFLUENCE. EXCEPT FOR ONE SLIP, EASTMAN SOMEWHAT GUARDED THIS SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH IT OBVIOUS HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT DEEPLY WORRIED BY GROWING ARAB-MUSLIM ROLE IN OAU. EASTMAN SAID "AT ONE POINT I LOOKED IN GALLERIES AND SAW RIADAH, ARAFAT AND OTHER ARAB OBSERVERS AND WE--I MEAN--I WAS FRIGHTENED." IT LIKELY PLURAL PRONOUN INDICATES GOL APPREHENSIONS. EASTMAN NOTED MUSLIM STATES HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED MOTION HE MADE ON BEHALF GOL TO GRANT OBSERVER STATUS TO ALL AFRICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS NOMINALLY CHRISTIAN COUNTRIES SUPPORTED HIM.

3. SAHEL. EASTMAN SAID OAU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF ITSELF ON ITS RECORD ON SAHELIAN RELIEF BUT HOPES IT CAN DO BETTER IN FUTURE. HERE AGAIN HE WAS DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF ARAB STATES AND PRAISED MOBUTU FOR HIS PRESENTATION THIS SUBJECT.

4. PORTUGUESE MATTERS. NOTHING NEW EMERGED THIS SUBJECT EXCEPT EASTMAN'S CONCERN AT DIVISIVE TRENDS CONTAINUING AMONG FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND HIS BELIEF PORTUGAL ACTIVELY SPONSORING THIS.

5. SOUTHEAST ASIA. EARLIER AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED FROM VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR HERE COMMENT THAT GRUNK AND PRG HAD MADE VERY EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION THEIR CAUSES IN MOGADISCIO. ACCORDING TO VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR, EASTMAN HAD TOLD HIM GRUNK PRESENTATION SO GOOD HE RECKONED ALL BUT FIVE AFRICAN STATES WOULD RECOGNIZE IN COURSE OF NEXT YEAR. IN PRESENTATION TO EMBOFF, EASTMAN LESS PRECISE BUT SAID GRUNK HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE AND HAD GAINED GREAT SYMPATHY. ACCORDING EASTMAN, MANY AFRICAN STATES WILL RECOGNIZE IF GRUNK IS ABLE GAIN CONTROL ONE MAJOR CITY. EASTMAN SAID PRG LESS EFFECTIVE AND DID NOT ATTRACT AS MUCH SUPPORT.

6. ATMOSPHERICS. EASTMAN SAYS CONFERENCE WAS, IN SPITE OF
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DIFFICULTIES IN ELECTING SECRETARY GENERAL AND ARAB PROBLEMS, MOST SUCCESSFUL IN MANY YEARS. HE SAID THERE WAS WILLINGNESS TO WORK, TO COMPROMISE AND TO DISCUSS WHICH NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

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